

B<sup>1</sup>  
a pseudo-land portion formed in the circumferential groove so as to promote a smooth inflow of water flowing from the circumferential groove into the slant groove, wherein said opening position of said slant groove is located on a side of the circumferential groove opposite to said pseudo-land portion formed on another side of said circumferential groove.

Sub C17  
15. (Amended) A pneumatic tire according to claim 8, wherein when a basic side and an oblique side are projected into the ground contact face of the tire, the slant surface is isosceles triangular wherein their length are substantially equal to each other and an angle ( $\alpha$ ) therebetween is within a range of not more than 20°.

B<sup>2</sup>  
16. (Amended) A pneumatic tire according to claim 8, wherein a position of an intersecting point between a basic side and an oblique side is arranged at a lowest side of the slant surface viewing the tire from a front face.

17. (Amended) A pneumatic tire according to claim 8, wherein a shape of an oblique side of the slant surface projected onto the ground contact face of the tire is a curved lone in which a center of curvature is located outward in a widthwise direction of the tire.

Sub C17  
18. (Amended) A pneumatic tire according to claim 8, wherein a basic side of the slant surface is substantially the same height position as a maximum height position of a first groove wall.

B2  
19. (Amended) A pneumatic tire according to claim 8, wherein a basic side of the slant surface is located inward from the maximum height position of a first groove wall in the radial direction of the tire.

Sub C17  
B3  
30. (Amended) A pneumatic tire according to claim 1, wherein all of the slant grooves each opening to each of a pair of circumferential grooves and extending toward the respective ground contact end of the tread are arranged in a direction of successively entering in the ground contact face from the side of the circumferential groove toward the side of the ground contact end to thereby form a directional pattern in the tread portion.

**Please add the following new claims:**

B4  
31. (New) A pneumatic tire comprising:  
a tread portion provided with at least one circumferential groove extending along a circumferential direction of the tire;  
and a plurality of slant grooves each opening to the circumferential groove and obliquely extending from such an opening position toward a ground contact end of a tread, and

Amendment Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111  
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B1  
a pseudo-land portion formed in the circumferential groove so as to promote a smooth  
inflow of water flowing from the circumferential groove into the slant groove,  
wherein the pseudo-land portion is arranged adjacent to a first groove wall of the  
circumferential groove not opened to the slant groove.

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